

Individual residential water wells normally provide safe drinking water. Unfortunately, a well may become contaminated with harmful bacteria (fecal coliform). The harmful contaminants can enter a well site through flooding, a crack in the well casing, or a broken or missing sanitary seal or well cap.



One way to clear the problem of harmful bacteria is disinfection. This process uses a gallon of regular household bleach. Disinfection should clear the problem. If the water remains contaminated with bacteria, you may need to contact your Regional Environmental Quality Control Office for further assistance.

## Environmental Quality Control Regional Offices

**Region 1 EQC**  
Greenwood EQC Office  
613 South Main St.  
Greenwood, SC 29646  
ph. (864) 223-0333  
fx. (864) 223--6935  
(Greenwood, Abbeville,  
Laurens, Saulda, Edgefield  
and McCormick)

Anderson EQC Office  
2404 N. Main St.  
Anderson, SC 29621  
ph. (864) 260-5569  
fx. (864) 260-4855  
(Anderson and Oconee)

**Region 2 EQC**  
Greenville EQC Office  
301 University Ridge,  
Suite 5800  
Greenville, SC 29601  
ph. (864) 241-1090  
fx. (864) 241-1092  
(Greenville and Pickens)

Spartanburg EQC Office  
975-C N. Church St.  
Spartanburg, SC 29303  
ph. (864) 596-3800  
fx. (864) 596-2136  
(Cherokee, Spartanburg  
and Union)

**Region 3 EQC**  
Columbia EQC Office  
\*\*\* Bldg #5 PO Box 156  
State Park, SC 29147  
ph. (803) 896-0620  
fx. (803) 896-0617  
(Fairfield, Lexington,  
Newberry and Richland)

Lancaster EQC Office  
2475 DHEC Rd.  
Fort Lawn, SC 29714  
ph. (803) 285-7461  
fx. (803) 285-5594  
(Lancaster, Chester  
and York)

\*\*\* For Region 3, Columbia, and  
Region 4, Sumter, please use  
PO Box for mailing address.

**Region 4 EQC**  
Florence EQC Office  
145 E. Cheves St.  
Florence, SC 29506  
ph. (843) 661-4825  
fx. (843)661-4858  
(Chesterfield, Darlington,  
Dillon, Florence, Marion  
and Marlboro)

Sumter EQC Office  
\*\*\* 105 N. Magnolia St.  
P.O. Box 1628  
Sumter, SC 29151  
ph. (803) 778-6548  
fx. (803) 773-6366  
(Sumter, Kershaw, Lee  
and Clarendon)

**Region 5 EQC**  
Aiken EQC Office  
206 Beaufort St., NE  
Aiken, SC 29801  
ph. (803) 641-7670  
fx. (803) 641-7675  
(Aiken, Allendale,  
Bamberg, Barnwell,  
Calhoun and Orangeburg)

**Region 6 EQC**  
Myrtle Beach EQC Office  
927 Shine Ave.  
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577  
ph. (843) 238-4378  
fx. (843) 238-4518  
(Georgetown, Horry and  
Williamsburg)

**Region 7 EQC**  
Charleston EQC Office  
1362 McMillan Ave  
Suite 300  
Charleston, SC 29405  
ph. (843) 953-0150  
fx. (843) 953-0151  
(Berkeley, Charleston and  
Dorchester)

**Region 8 EQC**  
Beaufort EQC Office  
104 Parker Dr.  
Burton, SC 29906  
ph. (843) 846-1030  
fx. (843) 846-0604  
(Beaufort, Colleton,  
Hampton and Jasper)



## Residential

## Well

## Disinfection



PROMOTE PROTECT PROSPER  
South Carolina Department of Health  
and Environmental Control



# Materials Needed:

- One gallon of non-scented household liquid bleach;
- rubber gloves;
- eye protection;
- old clothes; and
- a funnel.



# Before Disinfection:

Check the condition of your well. Make sure there is no exposed or damaged wiring. If you notice any damage call a professional before the disinfection process.



# Steps In Disinfecting A Well:

1. If your water is muddy or cloudy, run the water from an outside spigot with a hose attached until the water becomes clear and free of sediments.



2. Determine what type of well you have and how to pour the bleach into the well.

Some wells have a sanitary seal with either an air vent or a plug that can be removed (a).



If it is a bored or dug well, the entire cover can be lifted off to provide a space for pouring the bleach into the well (b).



3. Take the gallon of bleach and funnel (if needed) and carefully pour the beach down into the well casing.



4. After the bleach has been added, run water from an outside hose into the well casing until you smell chlorine coming from the hose. Then turn off the outside hose.



5. Turn on all cold water faucets, inside and outside of house, until the chlorine odor is detected in each faucet, then shut them all off. If you have a water treatment system, switch it to bypass before turning on the indoor faucets.



6. Wait six to 24 hours before turning the faucets back on. It is important not to drink, cook, bathe or wash with this water during the time period — it contains high amounts of chlorine.

7. Once the waiting period is up, turn on an outside spigot with hose attached and run the water into a safe area where it will not disturb plants, lakes, streams, or septic tanks. Run the water until there is no longer a chlorine odor. Turn the water off.



8. The system should now be disinfected and you can now use the water.

9. It is recommended to have your water tested for bacteria seven to 10 days after disinfection. You can pick up a water sample kit at your local S.C. DHEC office.

